

Speakers Bureau: Your Call to Action

“What you do for Threads of Life is so important and we commend you for showing so much courage and strength while dealing with such a tragedy. By sharing your story with us you reinforced the importance of our commitment to safety. I can speak for many who attended that our thoughts will be with you and your family always.”

— Ontario Petroleum Contractors’ Association,
following a Speakers Bureau presentation



Members of the Speakers Bureau are family members like you, who have been affected by a workplace fatality, life-altering injury or occupational disease. They are parents, siblings, spouses and friends who are united in their courage and conviction that sharing their personal stories will prevent further injuries in the workplace. Members of the Speakers Bureau bring their messages to company health and safety awareness events, schools and conferences. We provide free training and make all the arrangements. If you are interested in joining us, please call or send us an email at speakersbureau@threadsoflife.ca.

Threads Newsletter



“Just reading the newsletter helped very much.”

“I like to read how others cope and offer support across Canada.”

Threads, our free quarterly newsletter, features the personal stories of those affected by a workplace tragedy, along with poems, reference material, and news on upcoming Threads of Life initiatives. You can sign up for a free subscription by email or mail or download Threads from our web site.

Each worker and family member who has been affected by a workplace tragedy is a thread in the quilt of life. Each thread, by itself, cannot stand alone, but when woven together provides strength. Although we are individuals, we are also connected in the fabric of life.

Threads of Life is a national charitable organization dedicated to supporting families along their journey of healing who have suffered from a workplace fatality, life-altering injury or occupational disease.



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fatalities
life-altering injuries
occupational disease



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You're not alone.

Families of workplace tragedy are here to help you.

Volunteer Family Guides

“People tell us it will get better; it will go away and I’m telling you they don’t know. We think about Jim every day.”

– Dad whose son died while doing repair work on an elevator

“Volunteer Family Guides offer a different perspective than members of our own families or members of society. We ‘get it’.”

– Marj Deyell, Volunteer Family Guide, Mom of John, 23 years old, who died on the job.

Despite the grief in their hearts from their own workplace tragedy, Volunteer Family Guides have the courage and determination to make the road a little bit easier for other families, like yours, who are suffering from a traumatic workplace tragedy. Threads of Life was the first organization in the world to create a Volunteer Family Guide program that offers one-on-one peer support to families.

If you’ve suffered from a workplace fatality we know that grief is often your silent companion. If you’re coping with the care of a family member affected by a serious life-altering injury or occupational disease, we know that you have your own unique challenges trying to live with your new ‘normal’ of unfulfilled hopes and dreams.

Whatever the circumstances, coping and healing is made easier with the warmth, acceptance and listening ear of our Volunteer Family Guides.

“My Volunteer Family Guide really helped me know what to expect from the occupational health and safety system and the judicial system. Sometimes I needed a boost to get through the next legal phase because it was overwhelming and confusing. Without Threads of Life I would have muddled through and missed opportunities on where to focus my attention and energy.”

Fran de Fillipis, a young widow

Fran with her children. The guidance and support Fran received from the Volunteer Family Guide meant she successfully entered a family victim impact statement in an occupational health and safety court case.



Family Forums: A Safe Harbour

“It was definitely a difficult weekend dealing with things that we all tend to put on a shelf so we can move on with our lives, but it was also a weekend filled with meeting people who know what you are going through. A weekend filled with love and hope, tears and pain, but optimism as well for a future.”

– First time family forum attendee

Our regional Family Forums offer your family a warm and welcoming community of support where you can meet others who have experienced their own workplace tragedy. Your tragedy may be recent or could have happened many years ago. The Forum has helped many families along their journey of healing. At this special event, spouses, parents, siblings and close friends gather to learn coping skills for grief, active listening skills, tips on how the occupational health and safety system works, self-care, and so much more.



Through fundraising from our Steps for Life - Walking for Victims of Workplace Tragedy event we can subsidize the costs for family members to attend a Family Forum. Forums are traditionally held in western, eastern and central Canada.

Steps for Life - Walking for Families of Workplace Tragedy



“My family participated in the Steps for Life walk in Toronto on the weekend. It was very inspiring and heart touching. We lost our son to a workplace fatality last March and times have been very difficult.”

– Mom of a worker who died on the job

Every year on the first Sunday in May, families come together with corporate leaders in their community to draw attention to the importance of injury prevention in a fun and positive environment. The walk is a wonderful way for your family to remember and celebrate the life of your loved one while journeying together. It’s also an opportunity to express your belief and educate others that workplace injuries and illnesses are not just “the cost of doing business”.

To find the walk location nearest you, please visit www.stepsforlife.ca

